

February 17, 1997, which claims priority from provisional Application Serial No. 60/016,988, filed May 7, 1996, and British Patent Application No. GB 9603168.7, filed February 15, 1996.

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In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claims:

Claim 1. (Twice Amended):

sub C2 >
A method for increasing the feed efficiency of animals comprising administering to the animals a solid feed comprising a feedstuff and an amount of an organism that increases the feed efficiency of said animals, wherein said organism is selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.

Claim 14. (Amended):

sub C3 >
A solid feed comprising a solid feedstuff and an amount of an organism selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*, wherein said amount of organism increases animal feed efficiency.

Claim 15. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus buchneri*.

Claim 16. (Amended):

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The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said amount of organism is administered in an amount of between 10^5 and 10^{14} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.

Claim 17. (Amended):

The solid feed according to claim 14, wherein said amount of organism is between 10^5 and 10^{10} colony forming units (CFU) per head per day.